

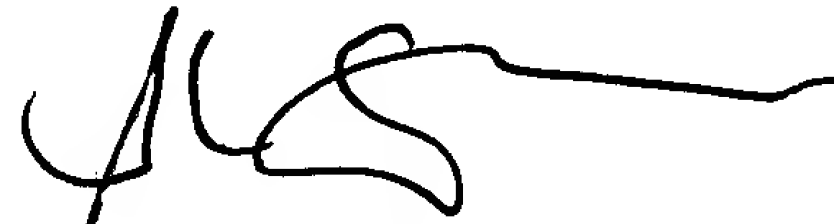
REMARKS

The Office Communication mailed on September 9, 2004 stated that the amendment filed May 17, 2004 withdrawing Claims 1-6 directed to a water sorptive product while pursuing the prosecution of Claims 14-19 directed to a method for improving centrifuge retention capacity property of wet-laid water sorptive product was non-responsive. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Applicants submit that the amendment filed May 17, 2004 withdrawing Claims 1-6 while pursuing the prosecution of Claims 7-19 was responsive. Applicants respectfully submit that there would be no undue burden to the United States Patent and Trademark Office to examine method Claims 14-19 while examining method Claims 7-13. Specifically, Applicants believe that for examination purposes method Claims 14-19 are sufficiently related to method Claims 7-13. Further, Applicants believe that method Claims 14-19 are sufficiently related for examination purposes to product-by-process Claims 1-6.

In light of the above remarks, Applicants submit that Claims 7-19 in this case are in condition for immediate allowance and respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued. However, if any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is invited to telephone the Applicants' counsel at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,



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File No. 5003073-005US2

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